

**REVISED MINUTES OF THE
JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005, 2:00 P.M.
Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Members Present:	Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair Rep. Gordon E. Snow, Co-Chair Sen. Beverly Evans Sen. Karen Hale Rep. J. Stuart Adams Rep. Ron Bigelow Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux Rep. LaVar Christensen Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove Rep. John Dougall Rep. James A. Ferrin Rep. Julie Fisher Rep. Karen W. Morgan Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Members Excused:	Pres. John Valentine
Staff Present:	R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst Cherie Schmidt, Secretary
Public Speakers Present:	Blaine Peterson, Executive Director of USOR Sandra Curcio, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities Debra Bodel, Center for Independent Living Jeffery Chard, Assistive Technology Teresa Leavitt, Vocational Rehabilitation/Transition Services Bill Petersen, Blind and Visually Impaired Services Glen Williams, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Linda Rutledge, Superintendent of USDB Karl Wilson, Director of Special Education, USOE Joe Zeidner, Past Chair, Representing Jean Massieu Charter School Gwyneth Kenner, USDB Parent Jean Thomas, Interpreter Coordinator, USDB Rep. Cox, H.B. 46, Public Education Capital Outlay Amendments Representative Litvack, H.B. 175, Education Achievement Gap Task Force
Visitor List on File	A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the Committee minutes

Committee Co-Chair Gordon E. Snow called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes - There were no minutes for approval.
2. Utah State Office of Rehabilitation Budget Hearing - Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, discussed the Budget Brief Utah State Office of Rehabilitation found in Tab 10 of the *Budget Analysis*. The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR) operates programs designed to assist disabled individuals prepare for and obtain employment or increase their level of independence. Budget recommendations in this brief include Transitional Services \$150,000, Independent Living Centers \$100,000, and Community Center for the Deaf Equipment \$24,000 (one-time), and Assistive Technology \$300,000 (one-time).

The Issue Brief Independent Living Centers COLA was also reviewed. This brief highlights the history of providing cost of living adjustments to Utah's Independent Living Centers and FY 2006 COLA estimates.

Blaine Peterson, Executive Director of USOR, gave an overview of the Rehabilitation Services Administration. His discussion was supported by a booklet. Requests for appropriations total \$810,513 plus a one-time request of \$324,000.

The following individuals addressed the Committee and described how they had benefitted from the services provided by the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation:

Sandra Curcio, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities
Debra Bodel, Center for Independent Living
Jeffery Chard, Assistive Technology
Teresa Leavitt, Vocational Rehabilitation/Transition Services
Bill Petersen, Blind and Visually Impaired Services
Glen Williams, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

3. Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind Budget Hearing - Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, discussed the Budget Brief Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind found in Tab 11 of the *Budget Analysis*. The Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind (USDB) were established in 1896 to meet the educational needs of individuals with hearing or vision impairments. USDB serves citizens in three main programs, namely; self-contained classrooms, student consultations, and residential services. Budget recommendations in this brief include Teacher Salary Adjustment \$65,300. Mr. Leishman also discussed the Issue Brief, USDB Teacher Salary Adjustments. This brief states that in order to keep USDB teacher salaries competitive, statute directs that the annual salary increase paid to

USDB teachers be based on the average weighted salary increase received the prior year by teachers in the school districts.

Issue Brief Jean Massieu Charter was discussed. This brief provides additional information regarding 2004 General Session Legislative intent language encouraging the Jean Massieu Charter School merge with the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind. This brief recommends that \$263,000 be transferred from the Minimum School Program to USDB.

Linda Rutledge, Superintendent of USDB, gave an overview of services available through USDB and an overview of USDB Building Block Request FY2006.

The following individuals addressed the Committee concerning the Schools for the Deaf and Blind:

Karl Wilson, Director of Special Education, USOE
Joe Zeidner, Past Chair, Representing Jean Massieu Charter School
Gwyneth Kenner, USDB Parent
Jean Thomas, Interpreter Coordinator, USDB

A USDB booklet was prepared and given to the Committee members in support of their budget requests. Appropriation requests include the following:

Transportation and Increase in Contractual Obligations - \$345, 600
Paraprofessional Salary Schedule - \$120,000
Interpreter Pay Increases - \$200,000
Psychologist and Social Worker - \$115,000
Health Care Services - \$109,800
Substitute Instructor Pay Scale - \$28,400
Assistive Technology Enhancement - \$143,000
Increase in Contractual Obligations - \$9,800

4. Public Education Bills with Fiscal Impact - H.B. 46, Public Education Capital Outlay Amendments - Representative Cox discussed the effects the Public Education Capital Outlay Act Amendments will have on the budget for FY 2006. An overview of the key points of this bill was given and was supported by a handout.

Public Education Bills with Fiscal Impact - H.B. 175, Education Achievement Gap Task Force - Representative Litvack discussed this bill and what is happening in schools with regard to the disparities in the dropout rate.

5. Child Nutrition Budget Hearing - Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst discussed the Budget Brief Child Nutrition Programs. These programs are a series of federal assistance programs designed to provide high-quality nutritionally well-balanced meals and develop nutrition awareness among students. The total ongoing budget recommended for this program is \$113,086,700. Budget Brief Education Contracts was also addressed. This program provides funding for the education of students in state custody. Revenue distributed to the FY 2006 base budget for the Youth Center is \$1,153,200 and \$2,701,600 for the Corrections Education program. The total ongoing budget recommended for this program is \$3,854,800 in FY 2006.

6. Adjourn -

MOTION: Sen. Karen Hale moved to adjourn at 4:47 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Sen. Howard Stephenson, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Gordon Snow, Committee Co-Chair